

REMARKS

Claims 12-20 remain pending in the application.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated April 14, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

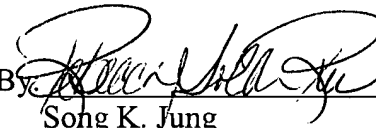
In the Office Action, claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,401 B1 to Kang et al. (hereinafter "Kang '401"). The rejection of claims 12-20 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Kang '401 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) because its filing date is after the filing date of the parent application of the present application. Specifically, the present application claims the benefit of the filing date of December 4, 1998 of the parent application, 09/205,582. Therefore, because the filing date of the parent is prior to the filing date of Kang '401, Kang '401 is not prior art under §102(e).

Furthermore, the present application claims priority from Korean Patent Application 1998-25443 that is dated June 30, 1998 and is also before the filing date of Kang '401. Therefore, Kang '401 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). At least for this reason, the rejection of claims 12-20 is reversed, and Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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